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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/990,413	11/21/2001	Nancy Allbritton	Q048	6314

7590

05/21/2003

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EXAMINER

LY, CHEYNE D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1631

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2003

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/990,413

Applicant(s)

ALLBRITTON ET AL.

Examiner

Cheyne D Ly

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-65 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. The instant application contains two claims that are numbered 40. Misnumbered claims 40 and 40-64 been renumbered to 40-65.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
- I. Claims 1-4, drawn to an improvement in a method for assessing protein activity in a cell, classified in class 435, subclasses 455 and 468. If this Group is elected, then the below summarized 6 species sets (A-F), election of a species from each set is required.
 - II. Claims 5-9, drawn to a method for profiling signal transduction pathways, classified in class 435, subclasses 4 and 7.1. If this Group is elected, then the below summarized 6 species sets (A-F), election of a species from each set is required.
 - III. Claims 10-22 and 24-45, drawn to a method of detecting protein activity in a cell, portion of a cell, or group of cells, classified in class 435, subclasses 4 and 7.1. If this Group is elected, then the below summarized 6 species sets (A-F), election of a species from each set is required.
 - IV. Claim 23, drawn to an improvement in a method for detecting protein activity in a cell, portion of a cell, or group of cells, classified in class 435, subclasses 4 and

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7.1. If this Group is elected, then the below summarized 6 species sets (A-F), election of a species from each set is required.

- V. Claims 46-65, drawn to an apparatus for measuring the protein activity in a cell, portion of a cell, or group of cells, classified in class 435, subclasses 4 and 7.1. If this Group is elected, then the below summarized 6 species sets (A-F), election of a species from each set is required.

SPECIE ELECTION REQUIREMENT FOR ALL GROUPS:

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species (A):

2. Species of means of distinguishing reporter molecules are cited in claims 37, 38, and 56, which are generally separately analyzed and published, and thus document the undue search burden if searched together. Thus, applicants are required to select an unspecified means for distinguishing reporter molecules or a means for distinguishing reporter molecules from those listed in claims 37, 38, 56, 57, and 58.

3. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1-57 and 59-65 are generic to the above species in all Groups.

Species (B):

4. Species of detection methods are cited in claims 39 and 40, which are generally separately analyzed and published, and thus document the undue search burden if searched

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together. Thus, applicants are required to select an unspecified type of detection method or a type of detection method from those listed in claims 39 and 40.

5. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1-65 are generic to the above species in all Groups.

Species (C):

6. Species of introducing reporter molecules are cited in claim 50, which are generally separately analyzed and published, and thus document the undue search burden if searched together. Thus, applicants are required to select an unspecified method for introducing reporter molecules or a type of method for introducing reporter molecules from those listed in claim 50.

7. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1-65 are generic to the above species in all Groups.

Species (D):

8. Species of means for presenting are cited in claim 52, which are generally separately analyzed and published, and thus document the undue search burden if searched together. Thus, applicants are required to select an unspecified means for presenting or means for presenting from those listed in claim 52.

9. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally

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held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1-52 and 54-65 are generic to the above species in all Groups.

Species (E):

10. Species of means for collecting are cited in claim 54, which are generally separately analyzed and published, and thus document the undue search burden if searched together. Thus, applicants are required to select an unspecified means for collecting or means for collecting from those listed in claim 54.

11. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1-65 are generic to the above species in all Groups.

Species (F):

12. Species of means for lysing are cited in claim 54, which are generally separately analyzed and published, and thus document the undue search burden if searched together. Thus, applicants are required to select an unspecified means for lysing or means for lysing from those listed in claim 55.

13. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1-65 are generic to the above species in all Groups.

14. Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of a specie from list of specie sets cited above that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument

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that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

15. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

16. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

17. Inventions in Groups 1-V are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant application, the apparatus of Group V may be utilized in the distinct usages as needed in Group I, which is an improvement in a method for assessing protein activity in a cell. As needed in Group II, which is a method for profiling signal transduction pathways. As needed in Group III, which is a method of detecting protein activity in a cell, portion of a cell, or group of cells. As needed in Group IV, which is an improvement in a method for detecting

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protein activity in a cell, portion of a cell, or group of cells. Alternatively, the apparatus could be used to analyze the differential expression of a gene as it is related to a lung cancer. All of these usages are distinct as requiring distinct and different functions and results thereof without overlapping search due to different subject matter. This lack of overlapping searches documents the undue search burden if they were search together.

18. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

19. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

20. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

21. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157

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OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The CM1 Fax Center number is either (703) 308-4242 or (703) 305-3014.

22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Dune Ly, whose telephone number is (703) 308-3880. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

23. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on (703) 308-4028.

24. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Legal Instruments Examiner, Tina Plunkett, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3524 or to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

C. Dune Ly
5/19/03


ARDIN H. MARSCHEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER